



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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August 1, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homeland Defense Update

More than 6,280 National Guard soldiers and airmen still available in Wisconsin

With this week's return of 11 soldiers from Afghanistan, the Wisconsin National Guard will have more than 6,280 accessible personnel in the event of state emergencies or to support homeland defense or security missions.

The Wisconsin Guard has been actively involved in the global war on terror since the morning of September 11, 2001. Since that time, more than 70 percent of the Guard's soldiers and airmen have served on active duty, or will serve soon, either at home or overseas. Most of these 6,700-plus soldiers and airmen have completed their active duty missions and are back in Wisconsin serving with their Army and Air National Guard units.

Wisconsin's available resources include the National Guard's 500-soldier Rapid Reaction Force, which is capable of responding on short notice anywhere in Wisconsin with an initial force of 125 soldiers, and 375 additional soldiers available within 24 hours to sustain operations as long as required.

Of the Wisconsin National Guard's 9,450 current members, there are about 2,100 serving on active duty. Among those, approximately 1,260 are currently deployed overseas. The Guard's remaining soldiers and airmen are available in Wisconsin and are fully capable of responding to homeland security or defense missions anywhere in the state.

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